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TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
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14 December 1982

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BANGLADESH

UN DELEGATE URGES FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Nov 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] New York, Nov 3--Bangladesh has emphasised at the United Nations the close relationship between the development process and free and balanced flow of information on a global basis reports BSS.

Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and a member of Bangladesh delegation to the 37th session of the UNGA told the Special Political Committee on Information yesterday that mutual flow of information among nations facilitated international dialogue and understanding which were of crucial importance to the promotion of international cooperation. The climate of international relations and degree of mutual trust among states depend greatly on the extent of free and balanced dissemination of information he added.

Ambassador Fakhruddin reiterated Bangladesh's conviction that establishment of a new international information and communication order was a part and parcel of the efforts by the international community to establish the new international economic order aimed at bridging the gap between the developed countries of the North and the developing countries of the South. With our commitment to the freedom and free flow of information, Bangladesh was actively involved in various international organisations and forums to encourage international cooperation in the field of information.

As a member of the United Nations Committee on Information and Inter-governmental Council of International Programme for Development of Communication Bangladesh has been trying to promote understanding through creation of awareness of the genuine and legitimate concerns of all nations he said and emphasised that sincere efforts of all concerned should be directed towards elimination of existing imbalances in the global flow of information and thereby change the dependent status of developing countries in that area.

CSO: 5500/7038

BANGLADESH

INFORMATION MINISTER INAUGURATES BROADCASTERS' COURSE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Nov 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Syed Najmuddin Hashim, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, on Monday directed the National Broadcasting Academy to prepare a handbook of standard pronunciation for broadcasters to help radio and television play their due role in ensuring a definite standard of the Bangladesh language.

The Minister was inaugurating a two-month regular course on radio programmes for the Programme Producers of Radio Bangladesh at the National Broadcasting Academy. Twelve officers of Radio Bangladesh were attending the course.

The Minister said that since 'Bangla was our state language, it should play its proper role in the national life. For this it must have a definite standard and radio and television have a due role in this regard.

Presided over by the Information Secretary Mr A. B. M. Ghulam Mostafa, the function was addressed, among others, by the Director-General of the academy Mr Jamil Choudhury, Director-General of Radio Bangladesh, Mr Nuruddin Al-Masud and Mr Wes Wier, a foreign expert on course programme.

The Information Minister said that electronic media has a special role in project support communication for national socio-economic development. Keeping this in mind Bangladesh has succeeded in developing a powerful infrastructure for radio and television which now respectively covers 100 per cent and 90 per cent of the country.

Mr Najmuddin Hashim further said that Bangladesh with one language has a population 80 per cent of whom were still uneducated. Under the circumstances despite continuous efforts to develop low-cost print media it was unable to play its proper role in national development and education.

He said that the radio and television would have to play a significant role in promoting national awareness, education and development as well as a source of entertainment.

The Minister pointed out that the establishment of the Broadcasting Academy was a step aimed at making skilled producers, technicians and engineers. He noted with satisfaction that since its establishment, the National Broadcasting

Academy has organised 34 modular course and imparted training to 362 radio and television personnel during the last two years.

The Minister expressed the optimism that the participants of the course would help prepare improved programmes keeping in mind the national requirements to inspire listeners in development education and national reconstructive activities.

CSO: 5500/7037

RESULTS OF INQUIRY ON INSAT-1A FAILURE TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Nov 82 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 10.

Indian national satellite (Insat-1B) with a number of modifications made in the light of failure of Insat-1A, is being prepared for thermo vacuum testing at Ford Aerospace's facility in Palo Alto. Additional tests have been planned to prove proper functioning of the modified deployment mechanisms under zero gravity conditions.

According to the Space Department, the most significant modification is the incorporation within the satellite of an automatic switch to omni-directional telemetry in the event of loss of earth pointing. The propellant isolation valve control circuitry has been modified to eliminate the possibility of unexpected valve status transfers.

Minor design modifications on solar sail boom assembly and antenna deployment and tie-down arrangements have also been made. The boom is a long arm which supports the solar sail. The boom unfolds itself when the satellite is in orbit. All deficiencies in the ground control software and contingency procedures are being removed and corrected.

A modification is also being made to the separation interface between the spacecraft and the fitting which attaches it to the payload assist module to strengthen the interface to accommodate the slightly higher space shuttle launch loads than those previously anticipated.

Basic design sound: The review committee appointed to enquire into the causes leading to the loss of Insat-1A, has found that the basic design of the satellite was sound and its loss was due to a complex interplay of relatively minor spacecraft deficiencies and unforeseen events, each of which, under normal circumstances, was extremely unlikely to cause a catastrophe.

The spacecraft having undeployed solar sail, entered an eclipse season from August 31. The ground controller prepared for the eclipse operations a few days earlier. However, on September 4 some deficiencies in ground control software, lacunae in contingency operations procedures and unexpected on board

anomalies cause events to cascade in about one hour and 16 minutes culminating in the spacecraft being shut down.

Earlier, during the satellite's orbit raising sequence, the solar sail boom failed to deploy. The non-deployment of the boom and the attached "sail" necessitated routine compensation offset solar torque, solely through the spacecraft's attitude control system.

On September 4, a modest yaw build-up, which occurred on the spacecraft, was being slowly removed by the spacecraft's autonomous control system. "Yaw" is rotary motion about a line between the satellite and the centre of the earth.

Moon's intrusion ignored: The computer programme on the ground failed to predict the intrusion of the bright full moon, after the eclipse interval following the expected sun-intrusion, within the field of view of the spacecraft's earth sensor. This failure was due to an inadequate data base which did not take into account the yaw build-up on the spacecraft due to the undeployed solar boom/sail.

The moon intrusion into the earth sensor, coupled with continuation of "north scan" inhibit, commanded earlier to meet sun-interference situation beyond the predicted period, resulted in the inhibition of the remaining active scan of the infrared earth sensor. This resulted in a lack of reference for the attitude control system and a subsequent drift of the satellite's attitude with the loss of "earth lock."

Emergency action: Ground controllers initiated emergency procedures immediately. These included a change of spacecraft narrow beam telemetry, employed during normal operations to a nearly omni-directional antenna used during transfer orbit and "loss of lock" emergencies. But because of the spacecraft drift into an unfavourable attitude relative to the ground control station, three commands critical to this transition to omni-directional telemetry were not received and executed.

The ground controllers remained unaware of this until later. As a result, the satellite telemetry stayed configured with the narrow beam antenna operating and was available only for about ten per cent of the time during the following critical period.

The problems relating to configuring the satellite for transmission of omni-directional telemetry resulted in all the subsequent commands being sent in essentially a 'blind' mode, without the controllers being able to verify whether or not a command was received and executed by the satellite prior to sending subsequent commands.

All subsequent difficulties with the satellite, including the events leading to the depletion of the propellant, resulted from this.

Valve confusion: Specifically, non-receipt on board of critical parts of a ground command sequence which should have operated a safety isolation switch and prevented the propagation of a switching pulse from the attitude control electronics into the oxidiser isolation valves circuit in the propulsion system resulted in a configuration in which the oxidiser isolation valves were closed while the dual isolation valves were open.

This resulted in high propellant use rates and negligible control thrust. The propellents were exhausted in less than an hour in this abnormal state. Under normal circumstances, a safety feature within the spacecraft would have prevented propagation of switching pulse into the propulsion sub-system isolation valves, the report said.

CSO: 5500/7034

BOMBAY TELEPHONE IMPROVEMENT PLANS TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

BOMBAY, November 12:
THE first batch of push-button telephones for city subscribers, manufactured by the Indian Telephone Industries, will be released shortly.

Of 3,000 instruments to be released by ITI, 600 will be for Bombay Telephones, Mr. A. L. Motwani, chief regional manager, told this paper today.

He said production of the push-button telephone had started after clearance from the posts and telegraphs department, which had undertaken field trials. Some instruments of the push-button type had been installed in the city for testing.

The multi-line telephone had also been cleared for production. An electronic telephone was under development, he said.

Mr. Motwani said an outlay of Rs. 14 crores had been proposed for augmenting R and D facilities in Bangalore and Naini units of the ITI during the current plan period. Already over Rs. 10 crores had been invested in equipment and facilities.

Among the equipment produced by it is the communication equipment for

the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for its Bombay High project.

A low-cost small earth station for the INSAT project is under development.

Developments in the analog and co-axial systems include work on fibre optic radar data remote system for a turnkey project, taken on hand.

Supplies are being made of a family of digital communication equipment developed for defence use.

As regards switching systems, a 200-line micro processor-controlled exchange for use as a terminal exchange in the rural network is to go on field trials shortly.

A special microprocessor-based switching system has been developed for modernising the handling of telegrams in the country. This system would facilitate storing of calling subscribers' messages when the called party is busy and then transmitting the message automatically when the party is free.

The equipment supplied to ONGC is for three earth stations two of them offshore and one onshore, which would help establish a communication as well as a data link between the ONGC's onshore computer and headquarters on the ground and earth stations.

CSO: 5500/7035

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

PLANS FOR 1985 SATELLITE--Jose Antonio de Alencastro, president of Brazilian Telecommunications Inc., has disclosed that the domestic satellite to be launched in 1985 will cost \$231 million. The satellite to be launched in 1985 will cost \$231 million. The satellite will be used for the dissemination of educational and health messages and once it is hooked up to the television system it will help to keep the people more informed. The satellite will also be used in aviation control, national security and as a support for large projects. [PY021755 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 82 p 20 PY]

CSO: 5500/2019

NICARAGUA

WORK OF 'ANN' NEWS AGENCY DESCRIBED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Oct 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] When one of the thousands of peddlers who appeared in the Oriental black market after the victory of the revolution yelled frantically, "for sale, a typewriter with a telephone inside of it," he did not realize that he had in his hands the material basis of the beginning of the activities of ANN [New Nicaraguan News Agency], the first international news agency of a pluralistic and objective nature which teaches the revolution abroad.

In fact, what the peddler was selling was nothing less than a teletype machine with a transmitter, one of the thousands of different articles which were looted during the war of liberation.

Carlos Garcia Castillo, director of ANN, thus explained to us how the recovery of this teletype machine, which had belonged to TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute], for 500 cordobas was the beginning of the gigantic task of competing with the transnational news agencies which every day distort the reality of the revolutionary process so as to provide justification for aggression against our country.

Carlos Garcia said that ANN made the first broadcasts beamed abroad with that teletype machine recovered at Oriental Market which later was supplemented with other equipment provided by TELCOR.

Two Machines and Seven Newspapermen

All this goes back to the 19th of October 1979, exactly 3 months after the popular victory, when the ANN offices were set up on the seventh floor of the Zacarias Guerra building, where seven newspapermen had to stand in line to write their reports because at the time there were only two typewriters.

Three years after that beginning, the ANN is beginning to appear in the editorial offices of very prestigious periodicals in several countries. Its reliability and objectivity are causing a growth in the demand for its services by the various media--the press, radio and TV--of several countries.

The New Order in Information

We must recognize that after 3 years of struggle, ANN's growth has been remarkable considering its great physical limitations and the arduous struggle

for a new order in international information conducted by the Third World nations, which from time immemorial have been forgotten in world news and which are only mentioned by the large news services when there is an earthquake or blood is flowing in rivers as a result of the wars of liberation.

Carlos Garcia explained that the original idea for the news service came up during the first days after the victory when it already had become evident that the pro-North American transnational news services were creating with their news reports a climate favorable to what today is becoming almost an imminent invasion.

The triumph of the revolution was only a few months old when imperialism mobilized its enormous propaganda machine aimed at influencing world public opinion against Nicaragua following the extraordinary admiration it awakened among the peoples of the world as a result of the overthrowing of the Somoza dynasty.

After observing this scene, which was not at all flattering for the process, the revolutionary leaders established an instrument which would combat the campaign of distortion, defamation and slander which was becoming a common occurrence abroad.

The Policy of Truth

ANN decided to celebrate its third anniversary on Sunday, 17 October, the anniversary of the assassination of Commander Pedro Arauz Pálcio since his guiding principle and his spirit were influenced by the unforgettable words of Commander "Federico": "The policy of truth is the revolution's policy."

In view of the high cost of communication, ANN now has been converted into a mixed corporation to which both private and public means of expression belong. This corporation consists of CORADEP, The Peoples' Radio Broadcasting Corporation; the FSLN, Sandinist Liberation Front, through its official organ BARRICADA; and EL NUEVO DIARIO, a private newspaper.

The now decrepit teletype from the Oriental Market has the company of 19 other machines, more modern ones, which is an indication of the obvious growth of this news service which after 3 years has not given up its intention of expanding throughout the world, a challenge which 25 ANN newspapermen and translators now face.

Its installations are now on El Triunfo Street in a building formerly occupied by the Alliance Francaise which was not damaged by the 1972 earthquake. To carry on its endless struggle against foreign disinformation, ANN has, in addition to its 20 teletype machines, four telex numbers and three direct channels by satellite which operate 24 hours a day, linking it with Mexico, Paris and Moscow.

Foreign Correspondents

At the present time ANN has bureaus in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras, from which last-named country the female correspondent for El Salvador and Guatemala, stationed in Honduras because of the dangerous situation which the ANN correspondents face in those two countries, was recently expelled after being tortured.

In Europe, ANN has correspondents in Paris and Sweden. There is also an ANN bureau in Mexico where the most prestigious periodicals subscribe to the news service among which are UNO MAS UNO, EL DIA, the radio media, universities, Latin American documentation centers and other international news services.

Garcia said that among its most notable efforts to penetrate the tangled world of international news, ANN has signed a cooperation agreement with IPS, International Press Service, with headquarters in Italy, which disseminates 7,000 words by ANN daily to the five continents.

Of these 7,000 words daily, IPS assigns 3,000 words to the ASIN, its "Action of National Information Systems," which provide service to important periodicals, radio and TV in Latin America and the Caribbean, including among others, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. The other 4,000 words are assigned to the IPS world network.

New Foreign Bureaus

The growth of the news service is also reflected in the opening in the near future of new bureaus in New York, Washington, Venezuela and Canada. By the beginning of 1983, ANN bureaus will be established in the German Federal Republic and Holland.

Judging from the reaction by important international communication media, ANN's prestige and reliability are beginning to have an impact even on the great media of the industrialized nations.

A magazine in French called DEL SUENO A LA REVOLUCION, which appeared recently in Paris, quotes extensively the ANN worldwide services.

Another prestigious communication enterprise, the LATIN AMERICAN NEWS LETTER, with headquarters in London, has shown its admiration for the objectivity of a revolutionary news service which daily disseminates the pluralistic dimension of the revolution.

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS LETTER wants to buy the services of ANN "where space is given to interviews with opposition leaders as well as news which highlights the achievements and advances of the revolution."

Radio Sweden calls ANN daily at 0500 hours to obtain a selection of Central American news.

Prestigious European periodicals such as EL PAIS of Spain, LA CROIX--a Parisian Christian daily--L'HUMANITE, LE MONDE, LIBERATION constantly highlight

reports on Nicaragua sent to the world by ANN. Swedish, Finnish, Danish, English, German, Swiss and Dutch media also have quoted the ANN news service.

Bulletins in English

In view of this growing interest in knowing our true domestic conditions, begining in November, bulletins in English will be published primarily for distribution in the Scandinavian countries, the German Democratic Republic, England, the German Federal Republic and Holland.

Finally, it should be mentioned that after 3 years of tireless work in the struggle against foreign disinformation, ANN broadcasts in English, French and Spanish.

In the 3 years since its foundation, part of the road has been successfully traveled, but the road is still long and full of thorns. Garcia does not assume a triumphant stance. His goal and that of his colleagues, at this time of celebration, is to increase their level of efficiency and to grow, spurred on by the violent attacks by the imperialist transnationals whose hypocrisy, cynicism and derision are also growing at an unrestrained rate.

All the members of EL NUEVO DIARIO greet their colleagues at ANN on its third anniversary and wish them still greater success in the hard struggle they have ahead of them. We know that to the extent that the sentiment for change grows among all peoples, the true voice of the revolution will swell up like a giant echo throughout the world.

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SYRIA

TELEVISION, TELEPHONE INDUSTRY SAID TO BE THRIVING

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Naji As'ad: "Tour in Plants of General Electronic Industries Company: 55,000 Colored Television Sets; 15,000 Black-and-White Sets; 100,000 Telephone Apparatuses; Telephone Exchange Boards With Capacity of 40,000 Lines Included in Company's Plan, Implemented at 97 Percent Rate; Idle Capacity in Aleppo Plant for Black-and-White Television Screens"]

[Text] Syria has been a forerunner in introducing electronic industries within the framework of the industrialization plans based on meeting the local market needs for television sets, as well as meeting the future needs and the rising demand for these sets, especially in the wake of the major expansion in electrification projects which cover nearly the entire Syrian countryside.

In spite of this industry's international instability due to constant developments emerging from the electronic age, and in spite of the fact that these developments are confined to a number of international companies, making self-reliance on local resources for the survival of this industry an impossibility--in spite of these things, the sector in charge of this industry in our country has been able to work, produce and keep pace with the international developments in this precision industry. This has been accomplished with coordination and cooperation with the international companies and through the development of local expertise so that we may be able to keep up with this industrial development and produce television sets and other communication equipment to supply the local market needs of these apparatuses at prices the citizens are able to afford, in addition to insuring the soundness of the equipment by supplying the spare parts for a period of 10 years and supplying the cadre qualified to carry out the maintenance work.

Even though the Electronic Industries Company comes under the category of conversion industries, it has been able to realize big surpluses for the state budget and, at the same time, it has made the investment necessary to satisfy the market need for telephone and television sets.

This company was the only specialized electronic industries company before the recent founding of the Syrian-French (Sircotel) Company, and before this company started producing electronic exchanges.

It is worth noting that the Electronic Industries Company, which is controlled by the General Engineering Industries Organization, was founded in 1960 at first as a commercial company. But since then, it has turned into an industrial company that comprises 10 plants. Five of these are main plants, namely: the colored television plant, the black-and-white television plant, the telephone exchange plant, the telephone sets plant and the Aleppo white-and-black television screens plant. Five are subsidiary plants that produce parts for the products of the main plants, namely: The printed circuit plant, the mechanics plant, the plastics plant, the carpentry plant and the (steropor) packaging materials plant.

The company also has 17 maintenance centers distributed throughout the country's various governorates, including 4 centers in Damascus.

Human Element First

We asked Dr Nazir Kusa, the general director of the Electronic Industries Company, about the decisive factor in this industry. He said in reply: The electronic industry is distinguished from the other industries insofar as the production capacity ceiling is concerned because the human factor plays the fundamental role in the production process.

He noted that in many cases, the increased capacity is proportionate to the increase in the human factor and an enhanced capability in view of the precise adaptability of the maximum capacity to the local market needs and according to the planned production.

Regarding the company's skilled cadre, he said: A total of 1,400 production and administrative workers work a single shift in all the company's plants and maintenance centers. All the production workers have gone through training courses inside and outside the country. The company also includes a considerable number of highly trained and qualified engineers and graduates of the middle-level institutes, vocational training centers and industrial high schools. Women constitute nearly 70 percent of the total number of workers. This cadre has been able to meet the manufacturing production needs which are rising by the day.

Country's Need of Television Sets

The company's production plan is based on the country's needs for the equipment produced by the company. These needs are estimated at nearly 60,000 colored television sets with 20-inch and 27-inch screens and 15,000 black-and-white television sets. As for the needs for telephones and telephone exchanges, they are determined on the basis of the needs of the Public Telecommunications Agency.

Accordingly, the 1982 plan provides for the production of 55,000 colored television sets of both screen sizes and 15,000 white-and-black television sets.

The telephone and telephone exchange production plan calls for producing: 60,000 disc and button dial telephones; 25,000 semiautomatic telephones; 15,000 manual telephones; 20,000 mobile lines; 20,000 manual and semi-automatic lines.

It was planned for this year's production value to amount to 240 million Syrian pounds, of which 171 million pounds worth was to be produced by the end of the 9th month of this year. By the 9th month, the implementation rate of the company's plan for all products amounted to 97 percent of the available production capacity.

As for sales, it was planned to achieve a sales volume of 240 million Syrian pounds for the entire production. By the 9th month of this year, the company sales amounted to 97 percent of its sales plan for the current year.

Development of Company Sales in 4 Years

By examining company sales in the past 3 years, it is evident that the sales rate has been rising in an encouraging manner. In 1979, the production value amounted to 119 million Syrian pounds, sales value to 114 million pounds and the profits to 15 million pounds.

In 1980, the production value amounted to 182 million pounds, the sales to 168 million pounds and the profits to 45 million pounds.

In 1981, the production value amounted to 160 million pounds but the sales rose to 198 million pounds as a result of the sale of products rotated from 1980. The profits amounted to 76 million pounds.

It is noted that there was a drop in production in 1981 as a result of the suspension of production for a period of 2½ months because the company's production lines were modified and numerous workers were retrained in order to develop the industry and to produce a new kind of colored television set which was marketed as of the beginning of the year.

As for this year's plan, the planned production amounts to 240 million Syrian pounds and the sales to 240 million pounds, as we have already noted. But the profits are expected to amount to only 27 million pounds, as a result of the application of the customs fees law to the public sector companies, including the General Electronic Industries Company, whereas this company was exempted from such fees in past years. The company is expected to pay nearly 60 million pounds in customs fees during the current year, and here is where the real profit balance lies.

What About Aleppo Screens Plant?

It is worth noting that a contract was concluded in 1974 to set up a plant for the production of black-and-white television screens with a capacity of 100,000 screens annually. The plant was supposed to start production in 1977, however, its production did not start until 1980. This delay caused the plant to experience marketing difficulties. On this issue, we interviewed the company general director who said: The delay of the plant's production has led to marketing obstacles. At the outset of operation in 1980, the local market turned strongly to colored television. This made it impossible to operate the plant at full capacity because it was impossible to market the production volume, estimated at 100,000 screens annually. The matter was dealt with by many of the authorities concerned and the following recommendations were made to utilize the capabilities available in the Aleppo television screens plant:

Continue the plant's production of black-and-white television screens within the limits of the local market needs, including the needs for the black-and-white television sets that continue to be produced and the needs for maintenance of the black-and-white sets marketed in the country in previous years.

The company management has been assigned to rebuild returned black-and-white screens in order to reduce production costs, considering that the glass of these screens, constituting nearly 60-70 percent of the cost of each screen, can be reused.

The company has also been entrusted to study the possibility of rebuilding colored television screens through use of the plant's equipment and machinery and by adding some necessary equipment.

Utilizing the excess land and buildings at the plant site to set up other industrial projects.

The Aleppo black-and-white television screens plant is one of the most visible effects of the instability in the electronics industry markets.

Regarding the local manufacturing percentage of the television sets, the general director has said that 80 percent of the black-and-white television sets are manufactured locally. As for colored television, work was started this year to manufacture only 20 percent of the sets. This percentage will rise to 30 percent next year and is expected to rise still higher in the following 5 years, keeping in mind that most of the materials involved in the production are imported.

Big Demand for Colored Television

Regarding demand among the citizens for colored television sets sold by the company, Dr Kusa has said: In the past 2 years, we experienced a big development in the citizen's attitude toward new sets. The company's

sales of colored television sets reflect the citizen's satisfaction with the colored television set produced locally. The set is distinguished by several features that induce the citizen to purchase it:

The quality of the locally produced set is as good as that of the internationally produced sets. The set's price is competitive compared to the prices of the other kinds of sets sold in the area. The set is guaranteed for a year and the spare parts are available for 10 years, in addition to easy availability of maintenance through the company's centers which are distributed throughout the country.

These features have raised the citizens' demand for colored television from nearly 19,000 sets in 1979 to 55,000 sets this year.

On the other hand, the production of black-and-white sets has been reduced from 60,000 to 15,000 sets annually. Therefore, it is noted that there is no stock of any of the company's products.

Firm Connection With International Models

Proceeding on the basis of keeping up with the rapid developments in the world of electronics, every two years the company invites international firms to bid on developing equipment and models with the aim of acquiring the latest model manufactured. Each new model the company produces has more modern features than the previous models.

Company's Opinion on Television Fee

The problem of the television fee continues to fact citizens whose sets have worn out after long years of use. It is well known that this fee is not cancelled unless the television set is destroyed at the company. Regarding a practical formula to solve this problem, the director has said:

A draft plan has been presented in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance providing for cancellation of the fee for sets that have been in use for 10 years. The plan also provides for collecting the fee for 5 years in advance, on new sets. This fee would be paid upon the company's delivery of the set.

Should this decree be issued, it will save the Ministry of Finance a lot of trouble and fee collection costs.

What About Video-Recorder Production Plan?

The general director pointed out that there was no plan to produce video recorders, only a study on the possibility of producing them. The study has shown that this type of project is not economically feasible because of the vast investments it requires, and because of the instability of the constantly developing video recorder industry. To create conditions for the success of this industry, a large volume of video recorder equipment must be produced and a large market must be insured. For this reason the video recorder industry is confined to a limited number of international firms.

He added that within the framework of new industries, the company is currently studying the possibility of producing subsidiary electronic telephone exchanges with small capacities ranging from 50-500 lines.

He also noted that there are numerous factors which, if present, will help the company to develop its activities and to expand its industries to include new and varied products.

Company Workers

Hisham Bakri, the chairman of the company's union committee, has summed up to us the conditions of the workers, saying:

Because the company was founded long ago, the workers enjoy a large degree of stability in several respects. During recent years, the company's 1,400 workers have achieved numerous gains, most of them realized under the canopy of the glorious reform movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. These gains include:

Free medical care for all company workers. There is also a cooperative fund system to provide medical care for the workers' families. This year, medical care for the workers' families became semifree within the framework of certain cost regulations and ceilings.

There is a kindergarten for the workers' children which can accomodate 50 children.

There is a cooperative store that supplies the company workers' needs.

Transportation from home to work is assured for all workers.

In 1981, the problem of illiteracy among the workers was eliminated and we can say that there isn't a single illiterate male or female worker in the company.

A central clinic has been opened in the company and there is a project to open a restaurant to serve the workers meals at token prices.

There is family compensation for the families of both male and female workers.

Decree No 30, issued this year, has expanded the union's role in the sphere of work control generally, and has enabled the union to take part in all affairs conducted by the management.

The union committee chairman added that there is a housing association for the company workers and nearly 200 workers are members and approximately 42 housing apartments have been delivered so far. Moreover, 80 members in the Barzah area and 25 members in the (Qadasya) area (are in the process of being approved to receive apartments).

The committee chairman also noted that there are numerous obstacles connected with the incentives, considering that the incentives are tied to the old salary and system of promotion. In the 1970's, a draft decree was presented to adjust the workers' wage scale. However, the answer to many of these demands has been: Wait for the unified labor law.

8494
CSO: 5500/4504

COLOR TELEVISION STUDIO PLANNED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3406, 15 Nov 82 p 2980

[Text]

Pye TVT Limited, part of the Philips group, has been awarded a contract valued at £2.4m. for television studio equipment from Télévision Congolaise, all to be fully commissioned by July next year to mark Congo's 20th anniversary.

The contract includes building and equipping a complete colour television studio in Brazzaville. The existing monochrome studio is to be demolished and Inter-Engineering, Philips' architectural and civil works consultants, will supervise local contractors in building and air-conditioning the new studio. The studio buildings will accommodate a production studio and control room, VTR and telecine rooms. The studio will be equipped with three LDK 14SL studio cameras, operating in the SECAM system.

Among a full range of television production and processing equipment are a Rank Cintel Mark III

Flying Spot telecine film chain, a Model 5 CD 480 vision mixer, monitors and an LDM 500 signal routing matrix.

The second part of the contract is for a five camera television outside broadcast vehicle to be built by Pye TVT in Cambridge. Also using LDK 14SL EFP cameras, the Mercedes 1213 vehicle will be equipped with the BCN 41 VTRs, character generator and full mobile production and editing equipment.

The contract was awarded to Pye TVT after the recent successful completion of an ENG (electronic news gathering) contract during the summer. In this contract, six LDK 14S ENG cameras were supplied in a Land-Rover vehicle with portable VTR, lighting and editing equipment. The ENG vehicle package included a portable SECAM vision mixer, specially developed for the Congo by Michael Cox Electronics.

CSO: 5500/48

SWEDE SAYS KENYA MAY INSTALL COMPUTER EXCHANGE

Nairobi THE NAIROBI TIMES in English 2 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

NAIROBI, Monday, (KNA)
— Kenya will be able to instal a fully electronic computer controlled telephone exchange.

Disclosing this, a Swedish national who is also the vice-president public relations of the multinational corporation M. Ericson, Mr. John Meuring, said that this exchange will enable subscribers to dial directly without operator's assistance to any part of the world.

Meuring who will also instal the equipment, said that it has been proposed to the Kenya government to extend by 5,000 lines the telephone system in the country.

Meuring said, however, that with the installation of a computer there will be no need for operators, but he assured operators that they

cannot be done away with as they will always be needed in certain specialised areas.

Meanwhile, as the ITU conference entered its last week in Nairobi, more delegates jetted in this morning.

Those who arrived were two senior delegates from Bulgaria and Senegal.

The two, Mr. Krekmaski Nikola, vice-minister of telecommunications of Bulgarian peoples' republic and Mr. Assane Ndiaye, director-general of Senegal's posts and telecommunications, were received by Mr. Omar Soba, an assistant minister for transport and communications.

Soba said this last week the conference will mainly be characterised by adopting of various important resolutions.

CSO: 5500/47

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BRIEFS

INTELSAT V REFERENCE INSTALLATIONS--The international communications satellite organization Intelsat awarded the German Post Office a contract to install and operate two of the four reference installations for the Intelsat V satellite, which are scheduled for installation in Europe. As of 1984, the Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) mode will be operable from a large number of earth stations. For communications traffic across the Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean area, such reference stations are required in order to supervise and synchronize the large number of ground stations which have radio communication with one another. [Text] [Wuerzburg ELEKROTECHNIK in German 27 August 82 p 6]
9544

CSO: 5500/2546

FRANCE

HIGH TECHNOLOGY ELECTRONICS FIRMS GIVE 1981, 1982 RESULTS

Paris LES ECHOS in French 29 Sep 82 pp 19-20

[Article by Colette Menguy: "High Technology On the Paris Exchange"]

[Text] The high-technology sectors such as data processing, telematics, office automation, robotics and telecommunications are all present on the Paris Stock Exchange.

Telecommunications, in particular, is represented by CIT-ALCATEL [International Telephone Company-Alsatian Company for Atomic, Telecommunications and Electronic Construction], Thomson-CSF, and SAT [Telecommunications Corporation]. Last year, business in this sector suffered from the slowdown in the placement of orders by the PTT. And for these firms, growth is currently dependent on the business they do abroad, where they are netting some large-scale contracts.

Although CIT-ALCATEL and SAT were able to show improved results for the financial year just ended, the CSF's telephone sector, on the other hand, was hard hit. Thomson-CSF, which has had to set up a reserve of 225 million francs for future losses on long-term contracts, ended its financial year with a loss of 230.7 million francs.

The evolution of the results reported by the other firms we have looked at has been contrasty: Intertechnique, TRT [Radio and Telephone Telecommunications Company], SINTRA-ALCATEL [Industrial Company for New Radio Techniques-ALCATEL] and SAGEM [Company for General Applications of Electricity and Mechanics] improved their profits, while MATRA [Mechanics, Aviation and Traction Company], Signaux, and Telemecanique experienced a decline, a sizable one in some cases.

Wage-and-salary-related costs and, to a great extent, the sharp rise in financing costs were major factors affecting the results. The financial situation of the French firms is--with the exception of CIT-ALCATEL--not as strong as that of the American firms in this sector. Their indebtedness is higher and their funds more limited. Net profit margins greater than 2 percent are the exception. Intertechnique shows the highest rate of profitability, followed by TRT.

The year 1981 was also unfavorable to Texas Instruments and to Xerox as well. The first of these saw its results plunge over 40 percent, while those of Xerox stagnated at +6 percent. The American firms were penalized by a strengthening of the dollar and by greatly stepped up competition. The financial situation of these two companies, however, remains strong. Their current and available assets are sufficient to cover their total indebtedness, and these firms have large standby profits reserves

Generally speaking, the year 1982 promises to have been more severe toward the French as well as the American firms. Although activity has remained at a sustained level, profit margins will probably have shrunk.

CIT-ALCATEL: Up 31 Percent

CIT-ALCATEL's consolidated turnover last year showed an increase of 31 percent to 10.7 billion francs. Its net profit, which in 1980 had dropped by 154.2 million francs to a level of 62.5 million, recovered somewhat to a level of 74 million francs. The instituting of a fifth week of paid annual vacation resulted in an additional outlay, for the group, of 20 million francs.

In 1981, in a difficult economic environment, CIT-ALCATEL turned in a good performance. In the transmission and switching sectors, the firm achieved several technical successes. Noteworthy in the switching sector were its inauguration of the E10-B subscriber exchange at Brest, the putting in service of the E-12 toll centers at Massy and Caen, and the choice of its E10-S system by the PTT.

In the transmission domain, it received a number of large foreign orders. Furthermore, it consolidated its positions in the domain of facsimile.

In 1981, its subsidiaries accounted for 58 percent of its consolidated turnover. In the public telecommunications sector, CIT-ALCATEL acquired a 25 percent share in Lynch Communications Systems, an American company that is to take part in the development of the E10-S time-division switching central.

For ALCATEL Electronics (55 percent of CIT-ALCATEL's total turnover and 52 percent of its total orders), 1981 saw the putting in place of its office automation plan.

The private telecommunications sector, with TELIC [Industrial and Commercial Telephony] ALCATEL, GST [expansion unknown]-ALCATEL, and Intervox, experienced a growth of 19 percent in sales and of 39 percent in new orders. Growth has also been impressive in data-processing peripherals (Transac ALCATEL) and mail processing, where order bookings are very much on the increase.

Information processing services showed only moderate growth last year.

At the general meeting of the shareholders, the company's president, Georges Pebereau indicated: "The expected 1982 growth (of the activity of the group)

will be considerably less than in 1981... It should nevertheless reach a satisfactory level, assuming the volume of orders received from PTT remains consistent with forecasts."

It should be possible to improve earnings, but their rate of improvement will undoubtedly be less than that of the activity as a whole; this is because of difficulties that persist in certain subsidiaries.

Since the beginning of the year, the CIT-ALCATEL group has landed several large contracts abroad: In Malta, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Hongkong and, above all, India.

SINTRA-ALCATEL: A Good Year, Up 33 Percent

1981 was a good year for this company, which chalked up a growth of 33 percent in its turnover, to 822 million francs. Orders received increased by 25 percent to 1,287 million francs, of which 184 million francs originated abroad. Net profits rose from 15 to 17.25 million francs.

In the civilian domain, SINTRA-ALCATEL turned in good performances and was awarded a PTT study contract for the Teletex terminal.

In the military domain, the company obtained a large order from Litton under a rocket-guidance system program. It has also made forward strides in its development of military radio communications.

After implementing its large-scale program of industrial expenditures in 1980, at Marcq-en-Baroeul, its investments dropped off considerably last year, from 47 to 25.5 million francs.

Because of increased indebtedness--owing mainly to its having taken over, in 1980, of CIT-ALCATEL's visual display and radiotelephony activity in the field of submarine detection--its financial costs have skyrocketed: 18.3 million francs in 1980 and 41.3 million francs in 1981. It has maintained its dividend of 26 francs per share.

As of 30 June 1982, its revenues totaled 390.24 million francs and a sales growth of 25 percent for the entire year is being anticipated. Earnings will still be affected by financial charges. And by year-end 1982 its order bookings should total 2 billion francs.

To improve its financial position, the company has just announced a new 120-million-franc convertible debentures issue.

MATRA: Earnings Curtailed By Automobile and Timer Activities

The parent company's traditional activities experienced a new and vigorous growth last year: Its military sector's gross revenues increased by 48.5 percent, and its space sector's by 84 percent.

On the other hand, certain branches, such as timers and the automobile, experienced serious difficulties, chalking up heavy losses that adversely affected the firm's consolidated accounts and brought about a plummeting of the group's net earnings, from 189.7 million francs in 1980 to 79.37 million in 1981 (versus an increase for the balance of the group from 159.68 million to 206.7 million).

In the "telecommunications" branch, the past financial year has been devoted to a rebalancing of its research and development efforts and to the continuation of its industrial and commercial restructuring, especially with a centering of industrial production on TERMAT [expansion unknown], SIDEF [expansion unknown] and TPL [expansion unknown], a regrouping of distribution activities around PERITEL [expansion unknown], and a reconversion of industrial tooling to electronic production.

Total turnover of the telecommunications branch last year increased by 28 percent to 729 million francs. This year, the companies should end up with an increase of about the same order as last year, with a positive earnings bottom line. Last year, MATRA increased its share in SOFIMATEL [expansion unknown] to 62.7 percent.

As for its data processing branch, MATRA took control of MBC [expansion unknown] last year; the latter company has a good position in French top of the line micro-data progressing. An agreement has also been signed with Tandy Radio Shack to form a joint subsidiary with MATRA as the majority stock-holder. And lastly, a 35-percent participation in the capital of the AXEL [expansion unknown] company (microcomputers) was acquired.

The beginning of 1982 saw the entry of the state into MATRA (with 51 percent ownership), while its media assets were separated from its assets to form MMB [expansion unknown].

Jean-Luc Lagardere told the stockholders meeting that the parent company's net profits are expected to return to around the 1980 level (which was 253 million francs versus 175.7 million in 1981), or around 250 million francs.

No indication was given as to the consolidated results. However, losses among the subsidiaries that are in trouble will be sharply curtailed this year.

It should be noted that MATRA, which increased its capital this year--an increase reserved to the state, to be sure--is not concerned by the law restricting dividends.

Thomson-CSF: A Gloomy Year.

Thomson-CSF had a bad year in 1981, when the group registered a net loss of 70.44 million francs, whereas, for 1980, it had chalked up a net gain

of 307.57 million francs. Its annual revenues increased by 12.5 percent to 25,100 million francs, 48.5 percent of which earned outside of France.

Operations remained in the black, with a profit of 702 million francs, which was close to that of 1980. But owing to the very poor results turned in by Thomson CSF Telephone and CGR [expansion unknown], it was found necessary to set up large reserves, which entailed declaring a deficit for the financial year, a deficit that required the company to skip its dividend .

Its telephone activity has cost and continues costing CSF dearly, but, at the company's annual meeting, its former president, Jean-Pierre Bouyssonne, pointed out that CSF could not have remained absent any longer from this sector without serious adverse effects on the maintenance and development of its positions. A major forward step was taken in this domain in 1982, with the inauguration of the MT-20 time division switching center. Thus, 10 months behind CIT-ALCATEL, CSF made its entry into time-division switching. This year, the MT line's share in total annual telephone revenues will be 70 percent.

Several MT-20 exchanges have already been or are in the process of being installed abroad, particularly in Iraq, Greece and Bolivia.

Activity was rather calm during the first half of this year, with a consolidated sales increase on the order of about 8 percent, to a total of 12,578 million francs.

SAT: An Enhanced Position in Cables

This group's annual turnover--which includes proportionately and for the first time that of INFODIF [expansion unknown]--totaled 2,064 million francs, and its net profit 26.26 million francs, versus 1,780 million and 23.98 million respectively last year (without INFODIF). Electronics accounted for around 75 percent of total revenues in 1981.

Orders from PTT lagged further this year; and last year, this administration was the source of only 49 percent of the group's revenues, versus 65 percent in 1974, and of 40 percent of its orders versus 65 percent.

It was to ameliorate this situation that the group undertook last year to convert to new techniques and new markets. In optical fibers, SAT associated itself with General Optronics; in teledistribution, it strengthened its agreements with Tonna Electronique; in switching, it increased its holding in Interconnect Planning Corporation [IPC] (United States).

But it is in the cables domain that it effected its major operation. After launching an OPE [public offering of exchange] with SILEC [Electric Links Industrial Company] (7 shares of SILEC for 2 of SAT), SAT increased its participation in this operation from 22.6 to 50.8 percent.

Financial Figures

	(1) Chiffre d'affaires 1981 <i>(en millions de F)</i>	(2) Bénéfice net 1981 <i>(en millions de F)</i>	(3) Dettes à long terme <i>(en millions de F)</i>	(4) Dettes à court terme <i>(en millions de F)</i>	(5) Valeurs réalisables ou disponibles <i>(en millions de F)</i>	(6) Marge nette <i>en %</i>
CIT-Alcatel	10.742	74	1.362	1.178	4.000	0,7
Sintra-Alcatel.....*	822	17,25	155	774	414	2,1
CSF.....	25.089	— 70,44	1.940	23.118	13.872	—
Intertechnique	702	31,19	202	277,31	297,51	4,4
Matra	6.683	79,37	1.204	7.448	5.328	1,2
Sagem	3.939	63,42	334	1.223	1.162	1,6
SAT.....	2.067	26,26	174	953	591	1,3
Signaux	5.233	61,93	457	1.788	1.657	1,2
Télémécanique.....	3.445	51,90	464	1.382	1.163	1,5
TRT	1.327	48,50	25	1.008	728	3,7
* Non consolidé (7)						

Key:

1. Total Revenues in 1981 (in millions of francs).
2. Net Earnings in 1981 (in millions of francs).
3. Long Term Debt (in millions of francs).
4. Short Term Debt (in millions of francs).
5. Current of Convertible Assets (in millions of francs).
6. Net Margin (in percent).
7. Not consolidated.

The sum of these operations--which were carried out without consulting its shareholders--will enable the company to strengthen its position and improve its competitiveness.

At its annual meeting, the group's president, Jacques Boulin, made no secret of the fact that the general economic situation is a highly unfavorable one and that the expenses of its companies are going to increase. Nevertheless, he expressed confidence. The contracts that have been awarded to the SAR [as published] for studies on new products in domains of the future, such as the infrared, optical fibers and time-division switching, are at a record level.

Moreover--he added--as these studies near their completion, "We anticipate a recovery of growth that will mark the end of the period of conversion we are now going through."

The president did not exclude the possibility that he may have to call upon the stockholders for financial aid.

9238
CSO: 5500/2510

WAYS TO USE EXISTING CABLES FOR NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Paris LE MONDE in French 17-18 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Philippe Chauvet, group leader, Experimental Activities, National Audiovisual Institute]

[Text] The French government will soon have to make some important choices about the technologic infrastructure that will allow the development of information and communications systems using video communication.

Without conjecturing about the final decisions of the ministries involved (notably communications and PTT, but also culture, research and industry, planning, and so on), we present a number of proposals likely to be adopted for reactivating the existing cable networks.

It will be possible to provide teledistribution services and programs on approximately twelve existing cable networks. These will make available at least three thousand connections, a network with a capacity of about twelve channels, and a low-speed return line.

Users will therefore have to be equipped with suitable selectors and receivers. It will thus be possible to test services such as program banks, games, and remote surveillance.

The projects will last two years, with a third, transitional year to move from experimental project status supported by the government, to autonomous financial and operational status. Six of the projects will begin in 1983, and the others in 1984.

Three of the twelve projects will include testing of services involving strong interaction, such as computer-assisted teaching, image or image sequence consultation in a conversational mode, interactive games, and interactive sound videotex. To this effect, users--a minority of them--will be equipped with microcomputers, special consultation terminals, videodiscs, programmable videotape recorders, and so on.

This program for the concrete launching of videocommunication services and programs on existing cable networks meets several objectives:

- 1) Test operational services on a full-scale basis, so as to draw experience for future options.
- 2) Elicit reaction and an expression of wishes from users. Current survey or marketing methods as applied to the mass audience are completely ineffective when they involve abstract products such as future videocommunications services.
- 3) Test broadcast conditions for the French program potential, and the adaptation of its sources to these new means of broadcasting. Problems such as access to program stocks, access to information about these stocks (catalogs), distribution, and remuneration of authors, will be examined on a full-scale basis.
- 4) Test the institutional, economic, and financial forms of organization likely to support the development of videocommunications, both on the part of local parties, and on that of the government and its agencies.
- 5) Test the economic possibilities of paid services and the possible modes in which these systems can eventually be reimbursed by users and by the various financial participants.
- 6) Continue research and innovation in the area of services and programs.

Our idea of an experiment that could be a true launching under the most realistic conditions possible, implies paid services. The participation of the state and local collectivities will make it possible to fill in the gap between costs and receipts, the latter of which will be low at first.

Advertising income must also be considered.

In the area of local programming, priority must be given to the culture and recreation sector. The two major sources of programs are television and the movies.

At the beginning, it would be desirable to provide a minimum amount of program resources common to all the experiments.

These resources, which could also be used as part of a request television service, will not exclude reliance on other programs! According to experience, cultural centers or movie house operators could be given the responsibility for programming in this domain.

For information, an inexpensive technology could be used at the starting phase of the experiment: display of written pages, with possible inclusion of image messages (photos, graphics), and segments of a newspaper of the air. We will also call upon teletext and radio technologies.

Local production must be of professional quality if we are to reach an effective audience.

And while it is entirely desirable to establish a collaboration with volunteer workers, the latter cannot regularly participate in camera work.

On the other hand, a small local production team is probably too expensive for a small network; it will thus be advisable to aim for teams that can work for several networks, at least initially. These teams could also use equipment available in cultural centers. This local production will definitely remain lower in volume than local programming.

National topical channels aimed at specialized audiences will be difficult to program at the local level. A non-exclusive, centralized organization can be created. It will be possible to distribute the program to the networks through Telecom 1 or by means of TDF (Television de France) or DGT (General Telecommunications Directorate) land-based networks.

This development of services and program teledistribution to existing cable networks will have to take into account the projects of local institutions and responsible individuals.

It is essential for this launching of teledistribution services to be based on locally formulated programming projects. This procedure is necessary to enlist genuine local partners and participants in this type of activity, particularly from local collectivities.

At the local level, programming responsibilities as a whole will be assured by a local structure which can assume one legal form or another according to local conditions (joint private and public participation, economic interest groups, associations, and so on).

We would like this structure to be as distinct as possible from the one responsible for management of the network.

Specifically, the structure will be the main contact with the ruling body for audiovisual communication, which will issue operation permits for communications services in all matters relevant to programs and programming.

The structure will be able to act upon specific subcontractor channels or to proceed with its own channel programming.

Localized on-site studies, project progress studies, and topical studies will thus be conducted in anticipation of the launching of the programs.

11,023
CSO: 5500/2540

FRANCE

WORLD DATA PROCESSING CENTER TO BE MANAGED BY PTT

Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Oct 82 p 36

[Unsigned article]

[Text] The World Data Processing Center has changed its subordination, going from the Ministry of Research and Industry, to the PTT. This decision is worrying some of the center's researchers.

According to Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, president of the center, these fears are groundless. The change of affiliation came at his request, based on the forthcoming official decision to equip French cities with cable, thus replacing the telephone wire network serving subscribers with higher capacity fiber optics connections. This involves a very large investment of the order of some ten billion francs, partly financed by the National Savings Bank.

Mr Servan-Schreiber argues that this network must contain not only specialized equipment such as the terminal-directory, but also actual home data-processing tools whose design is entirely within the province of the world center. In order to ensure good coordination between the activities of the center and of the General Telecommunications Directorate (DGT), the request was made for a change of affiliation, negotiated by Louis Dubois, a member of the center's board of directors and former general director of telecommunications.

Mr Servan-Schreiber points out that the change confers no right for DGT to inspect the center's programs and that the center's board of directors, on which sit representatives of eight ministries, remains sovereign.

11,023
CSO: 5500/2540

LILLE TO EXPERIMENT WITH FIBER OPTICAL LINKS

Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Oct 82 p 23

[Article by Georges Sueur]

[Text] From our correspondent--Lille--The teledistribution commission for the Lille urban community (one million inhabitants) has decisively chosen fiber optics over coaxial cable, according to its president, Gerard Vignoble, socialist mayor of Wasquehal, at the conclusion of an exhaustive study.

While coaxial cable can carry only ten to 40 programs, fiber optics offers much greater possibilities and above all, offers the television viewer a genuine way to select his programs. He need only telephone a data bank.

For the Lille urban community, it is urgent to express its support of fiber optics. Implementation of the teledistribution network using this advanced technology will offer undeniable economic interest: the French fiber optics telecommunications industry will be the first to benefit. According to some documents, there is a potential market of 45 billion francs on French territory, with a development potential which could create several tens of thousands of jobs.

The urban community will sign an agreement with PTT, authorizing a cable experiment in the Saint-Sauveur neighborhood. This mini-network of only a few dozen connections will "test the feasibility of the system and will reveal the economic components of the project as a whole." Each subscriber will have simultaneous access to two or four programs out of the thirty-two which are available on the selected station. The second phase of the operation, planned for 1984-1985, will affect over three thousand subscribers.

There is a clear awareness that this experiment raises some problems, and this explains certain misgivings on the part of the General Telecommunications Directorate, which would like to retain monopoly over the distribution of televised images (other cities expect to develop the same type of network as the one in Lille; they plan to form a national association). The urban community of Lille feels it is appropriate to demonstrate imagination and come

up with new administrative structures. With respect to commercial maintenance and administration, suggestions are being made for creating a new company with joint participation from the state, local groups, and industrialists. As for management and programming, the whole gamut of contributors and users would be involved through an economic interest group.

Mr Vignoble declared: "Elementary caution demands we recognize that we know very little today about the limits of the field of investigation which this new communications support will offer. Only on-site experimentation will enable us to make progress, provided we have first established a tangible tool which is both flexible and reliable."

11,023
CSO: 5500/2540

FRANCE

BRIEFS

THOMSON-CSF IN IRAQ--Thomson-CSF, which is modernizing the the equipment of the Iraq telephone network, announced in Paris that the company has just been awarded a contract for supplying a national and international transit center for the city of Baghdad. This contract, for several tens of millions francs, follows an order for a first transit center between the capital and the rest of the country, and for 28 subscriber centrals representing 375,000 lines in the process of being installed. All of the equipment delivered to Iraq is of the MT time-switching technology, and adds up to a total of one billion francs. [Text] [Paris LES ECHOS in French 8 Nov 82 p 9] 11,023

CSO: 5500/2540

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

EXCHANGES FROM FINNISH FIRM--Telenokia [Finnish firm] has received an order from the Swedish Telecommunications Agency for digital exchange systems. The value of the contract is about 40 million Finnish markkas. Deliveries will take place in 1983 and 1984. The exchanges represent the most modern technology in the field, states Telenokia. According to the firm, the order means an important new penetration into a product area in Sweden for Telenokia. The order raises the market share of Telenokia in the total system to about 30 percent. The newly concluded agreement also makes possible continuation orders for production all the way to 1987, Telenokia stated. Continuation orders would raise the value of the contract to over 100 million markkas. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 4 Sep 82 p 27]

CSO: 5500/2554

END